First Congregational United Church of Christ,

Ypsilanti, MI

"Follow Me"

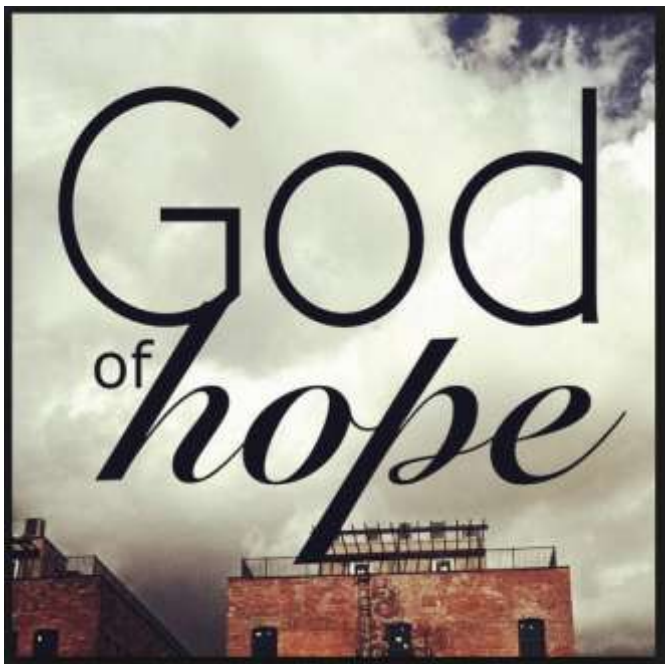

Photo from: The God of Hope; Posted on January 15, 2015; https://goodnessofgodministries.wordpress.com/page/4/

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

January 17, 2016 10:00 am

Second Sunday after Epiphany

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"Sing a Different Song"** **150 NCH** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Wayne Burling

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Wayne Burling

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Anthem** **"Words Like Freedom"** FCC Choir

Call to Worship (Unison) Wayne Burling

How awesome it is that you care for us, God! Your delight in us brings out our best. When you rejoice in us, we come to believe in our capacity for goodness. Your light in our lives brings us joy. Help us to recognize your first in not only ourselves and in others. We will remember to serve your people and bring your glory to everyone we meet! Amen!

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

***Hymn** **"O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright"** **158 NCH**

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament **Isaiah 62:1-5** Wayne Burling

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward*

New Testament **John 2:1-11** Carol Hall

Sermon **"Hope Engaged"** Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"Many Are The Lightbeams"** **163 NCH**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time. Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Traditional Version Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

I Believe

I believe in the equality of all,
rich and poor.
I believe in liberty.
I believe in humanity, and that through it
we can create unity.
I believe in the love within each of us,
and in the home, happy and healthy.
I believe in the forgiveness of our sins.
I believe that with divine help
we will have the strength to establish
equality in society.
I believe in unity,
the only way to achieve peace, and
I believe that together we can obtain justice. Amen.

- Prayer of an Ayacucho Youth Group, Peru from *Let Justice Roll Down*

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison) — Carol Hall

We give with gratitude for the abundance God has provide. We rejoice in the opportunities mission fields that God entrusts to us. In Jesus' name we pray for strength and for courage to reach out to bring comfort to God's people. Amen. **– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler**

Offertory — Steve McGhee

*Doxology — "Take My Gifts" — 562 NCH

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

*Prayer of Dedication *(Unison)* — Wayne Burling

The Holy Spirit fires our imagination and fills our lives with purpose. We rejoice to commit ourselves anew with our gifts. May what we share strengthen your children spiritually, physically and bring hope to all we work with. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"Star-Child"** **174 SING**

***Benediction** Carol Hall

One: We depart to serve, strengthened by the Holy Spirit.
We will use the wisdom, faith, and knowledge received.

Many: **We cannot rest in God's care or keep silent.**
We will live visibly in the love of God each day this week.
We pray that God will keep each of us open to opportunities
To bring hope to those in need.
Amen. **– Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler**

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

Open and Affirming Covenant of
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti.

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions.
All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith.
We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Volunteers	Today: Jan 17th	Next Sunday: Jan 24th
Usher	Marty Kleino	Wayne Burling
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Wayne Burling	Donna Eyster
Worship Set-up	Margaret Harner	Margaret Harner
Acolyte	Hunter Turner	Lyle Molter
Friendship Time	Anne Marie N-T	Glenda Horvath
Sunday School	Tad Wysor	Alex Goldsmith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO MEETING: February 7, 2016, immediately following the worship service, we will hold the **Annual Meeting** of the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Old business, information, reports and new business will be brought before the Congregation at that time.

HYMN PLANNING MEETING: The next hymn planning session will be Jan 24.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

NEW ADDRESS: Lorraine Sayles' new address; Orchard Hills Manor, 2139 Georgetown Blvd., Ann Arbor, 48105. Her phone number is the same as always (734) 483-3849.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*
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KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

OUR CHURCH'S MISSIONS

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: A coalition of Open and Affirming United Church of Christ churches in Michigan. For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.

See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

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Today's Cover Art

Photo from: The God of Hope; Posted on January 15, 2015; https://goodnessofgodministries.wordpress.com/page/4/

Timothy A. Rowe was born in Mansfield, Ohio and his father was a missionary in Liberia, Africa for a few years when he was three years old. His father taught him the value of all people as his father was a friend of Martin Luther King, Jr., and marched with Robert Kennedy. He attended the University of California-Berkeley and Indiana University. He graduated with a B.A. with distinction in History and Classics from Indiana University, and graduated cum laude from Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis. He has been a partner in the law firm of Rowe & Hamilton for 29 years. He hosted a weekly TV show called "Faith and the Law" on Lesea Channel 40 in Indiana. He also hosted a weekly radio program – "You and the Law" – on WKLU 101.9 and WXNT 1430 in Indianapolis, and on Thunder 103.9 FM in Crawfordsville for 5 years. He is passionate about bringing justice to people's lives and helping to make the legal system better and more productive. But at the center of his heart was always a deep love and respect for the Bible and a heartfelt relationship and intimacy with His Heavenly Father. He writes with a passion and emotion for God and has a timely and revolutionary message for the world. He has spoken all around the United States and Canada on justice and a passion for the law, but his first love has always been the amazing and extraordinary truth of the Scriptures that have the power to set a person free in mind, soul, heart and body. "The Magnificent Goodness of God and How it Will Transform Your Life" is his first book and he believes that the message is so profound that it can truly change your life.

http://www.amazon.com/Tim-Rowe/e/B002ZTK5W2/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pel_pop_1